

Like most of my HBCU Caucus colleagues, I have worked closely with my local HBCU to provide funding and resources needed to enable them to fulfill their mission of educating the next generation of social engineers and conducting research programs addressing issues of major concern to the African American community.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection in the 111th Congress, I authored the legislation to establish a Transportation Security Center of Excellence at TSU and worked to help TSU secure \$1.2 million in funding over four years from the Department of Homeland Security for this Center of Excellence.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a member of Congress is my success in working with federal officials in the Clinton Administration to settle the lawsuit against TSU that had been pending for more than 23 years.

I was proud to spearhead the initiative that brought more than \$13 million in financial aid relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University.

I also worked with TSU administrators to initiate digital archive projects to preserve the records of two of its most distinguished alumni, the legendary Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, both of whom preceded me as the Member of Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

I was pleased to facilitate a partnership between Comcast and TSU's School of Communication to provide scholarships and internships to TSU students and in-kind marketing services to the university.

I also worked to secure funding needed to establish the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in the TSU College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, HBCU's have played a critical role in American history.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

HBCUs do not just educate—HBCUs have and will continue to fill an important role in education opportunity and engagement for millions of young people from diverse backgrounds.

As leaders of this country, the success and expansion of HBCUs and minority-serving institutions falls on our shoulders and we must act swiftly to ensure that these institutions are protected.

In an effort to maintain the legacy and educational quality of our historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, we must act urgently to ensure the proper relationships are established between all of these institutions and the Department of Homeland Security.

I ask all members to join me in voting for S. 461, the "HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act."

IN HONOR OF AZALEA CHARITIES,
INCORPORATED

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Azalea Charities Incorporated, an all volunteer charitable organization located in the First District with a dual mission of providing support to Aid to Wounded Warriors and youth and special need projects. Over the last 22 years Azalea Charities Inc., has provided over 5 million dollars of support to these two mission areas, not only here in the First District, but across the nation as well as internationally. The motto of Azalea Charities is Working Together-Giving Together.

Azalea Charities' commitment to the ideals that America stands for, their good citizenship, self-sacrifice and longevity of service are a testament to all that is best about our country. From raising funds by partnering with local corporations and businesses to participating in events such as the Marine Corps Marathon and conducting their hallmark Pro Am Azalea Classic Invitational golf tournament, Azalea Charities dedication to service is to be commended.

After two decades, Azalea Charities Inc. is bringing their charitable era to an end.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring the men and women of Azalea Charities for their service to community over these past 22 years of dedicated selfless service to the citizens of our great country.

IN HONOR OF RICH GARBARINO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend and colleague Rich Garbarino: retiring from the city council of South San Francisco after 18 years and after a total of 38 years of service to the people of South San Francisco. Rich has been a steady voice of progress and leadership in the city.

Councilmember Garbarino sat on the parks commission for 18 years which resulted in new parks being developed throughout the city including Summit, Orange and Cypress parks that were constructed or thoroughly renovated.

Initial work on Centennial Way, a lengthy trail built to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city, began while Rich was a commissioner. Construction concluded years later after he joined the council. He was an enthusiastic advocate over all these years. Trail construction costs were entirely defrayed through donations.

When Rich began in public service, the east side of the city consisted of giant, abandoned steel mills worthy of any devastated war zone. As he completes his service, South San Francisco has become the biotechnology capital of the world. The steel mills were long ago swept aside to be replaced by Genentech's sprawling campuses of billions of dollars of investment and those of many other companies. One is presently researching the aging proc-

ess with the hope of defeating it, while another is tackling sickle cell anemia. A third grows specialized mosquitoes aimed at stopping the spread of Dengue fever. A fourth is farming inside a warehouse using vertical fields, robots and artificial intelligence to produce vegetables that are so tasty they fly off the shelves at supermarkets. Rich Garbarino and his colleagues encouraged tens of billions of dollars in investment in the east side through their welcoming messages to the biotechnology industry. This was transformational.

During his time in office, Rich worked hard in our State Capitol to represent other cities through the League of California Cities. He explained the need for local control over zoning and has long supported housing along the transit corridors of South San Francisco. Hundreds of apartments and condominiums have been created in just the past few years, most located along the rail and bus lines that lace South San Francisco.

He was a big supporter of Measure W, a 1/2 cent sales tax approved by voters. As these industries and housing spring up in South San Francisco, the need for more police and a new municipal center featuring a police station and library became apparent. It's paid for in part by Measure W.

Over just the past 20 years, Rich Garbarino took on nearly 40 different community service commitments including serving on the public safety policy committee, President of the League of California Cities, a member of ad hoc committees on gun control and gang violence, president of his neighborhood homeowner's association, and serving as an advisor to the president of San Francisco State University. Some respond to a call for volunteers as if a recent shoulder separation prevented them from raising their hand. Rich has persistent muscle spasms that compel his hand to fly upward.

Rich and his wife Elaine have three children, Gina, Rich Jr. and Andrea, and eight grandchildren. He is a quintessential family man, a great father and grandfather. This is also how he views his city. In Rich's eyes, every resident of South San Francisco is part of a big family, and their needs are his passion.

Some men see a city and mourn what has passed. Rich Garbarino sees his city and wonders about all that will someday come to pass. He's proud that the cure to cancer will likely be discovered in South San Francisco. He marvels that housing now being built is just the start of what's planned. He knows the downtown is on the cusp of a revival and that residents will grow safer in the future as they work towards their common good.

Madam Speaker, while the city's residents will no longer have Rich Garbarino to watch over their best interests, they have the path that he helped lay down to carry them into the future. Godspeed to the pathbreakers, and to their leader in chief, Rich Garbarino, a man who devoted his years in office to create a tomorrow for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 7